

## **Conservation Tools for Former S&M Species**

For many of the species that moved from S&M to the BLM OR/WA SSS Program, Survey Protocols and/or Management Recommendations had been developed in accordance with the S&M S&Gs. The Survey Protocols and Management Recommendations were completed in order to meet certain S&M objectives and direction. With the effective date of the new S&M ROD conservation of these rare and little known species will be accomplished through the Bureau's SSS Program.

Under the SSS Program, the Survey Protocols and Management Recommendations are not required to be used by field personnel. Field units may use these documents to help in their assessments and evaluations. Line managers should consider the assumptions utilized to complete the 2004 Record of Decision when determining their potential use. In particular, these documents contain information on species identification, range, habitat, threats, and ecology. That information may be valuable as a resource for determining if a proposed project might affect the species or its habitat, and can help provide rationale as to why a project is consistent with BLM SSS policy.

Oregon State Office specialists are reviewing and modifying these existing Management Recommendations and Survey Protocols to assure consistency with Bureau-wide SSS policy. Revisions will be made available for field consideration starting later this summer. In addition, for former S&M species that are now SSS and do not have previously transmitted Management Recommendations, Conservation Assessments are being developed. Conservation Assessments include key information on species habitat, range, ecology, and threats. While Conservation Assessments are helpful tools for field use, they are not mandatory products for field documentation of a projects compliance with SSS policy. Based upon priority and available funding, Conservation Assessments for these species will start being available to the field later this summer.